

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 M-03 A-01

SY-10 OPR-02 OMB-01 NIC-01 EB-11 COME-00 SR-02 ORM-03

AID-20 OC-06 CCO-00 CU-04 AF-10 SCS-03 SCA-01 RSR-01

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O 111428 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2075

DIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5397

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJ: INTERNAL SECURITY SITREP 14

SITREP 14

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1. SITUATION HERE AS OF 1400 Z STILL QUIET, AND WE NOTICE PROGRESSIVE RETURN TO NORMALITY. CURFEW LIFTED FOR SECOND TIME TODAY FROM 1500 TO 1900 LOCAL, AND RESULTANT PICK- UP IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY HAS SEEN MANY SMALL SHOPS, MOST BANKS AND SOME OFFICES REOPENED FOR LONGER PERIODS THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE APR 29 (COUNTING HOLIDAYS). PORT CONGESTION HAS ALSO BEEN REDUCED SOMEWHAT.

2. NEVERTHELESS, ATMOSPHERE STILL TENSE IN BEIRUT AND ALSO IN COUNTRYSIDE. ARMY STILL VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE AROUND BEIRUT, ESPECIALLY IN VICINITY REFUGEE CAMPS (WHICH SURROUNDED BY LOOSE NETWORK OF TROOPS AND ARMORED UNITS), AND CURFEW REMAINS STRICTLY ENFORCED AT NIGHT. SCHOOLS AND AIRPORT REMAIN CLOSED, AND WE NOW UNDERSTAND THERE LITTLE PROSPECT OF REOPENING LATTER BEFORE MONDAY AT EARLIEST. ARMY REPORTEDLY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DECISION, WHICH WE TAKE TO BE MEASURE OF ITS CONCERN THAT OVERALL SITUATION IS FAR FROM BEING CLARIFIED. OCCASIONAL HAPPENINGS (SUCH AS TAXI BLOWN UP BY MINE LEFT IN STREET NEAR ARAB UNIVERSITY CLOSE TO FEDAYEEN POSITIONS IN SABRA QUARTER) CONTINUE TO KEEP GOL AND POPULACE ON EDGE.

3. IN MEANTIME, PRES FRANGIE' S CONSULTATIONS WITH WIDE ASSORTMENT OF LEBANESE AND ARAB LEADERS ARE CONTINUING. SEEMS CLEAR HE DOING HIS UTMOST GENERATE POPULAR SUPPORT FOR GOL POSITION VIS- A- VIS FEDAYEEN THROUGH THESE MEETINGS, MOST NOTEWORTHY OF WHICH TODAY WAS WITH TOP DRUZE RELIGIOUS LEADER (SHAYKH AL AKL) WHO ASSURED PRES OF " TOTAL SUPPORT" OF LOCAL DRUZE COMMUNITY FOR GOL' S POLICY OF ENSURING RESPECT FOR ITS AUTHORITY AND SOVEREIGNTY EVERYWHERE IN LEBANON. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FRANGIE CONTINUES STRESS THIS LINE HEAVILY IN ALL HIS TALKS WITH ARAB " MEDIATORS" AND LOCAL POLITICAL LEADERS.

4. EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS STILL SAFE, AS ARE MEMBERS AMERICAN COMMUNITY WITH EXCEPTION ONE MISSING JOURNALIST WHO REPORTEDLY HELD BY FEDAYEEN AND WHOM GOL TRYING LOCATE AND HAVE FREED.
HOUGHTON

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NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO

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